

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 15, 21 and 45, cancel Claim 51, and add new Claim 70, all as shown below. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying mail filters associated with a user of a mail system, the method comprising:

receiving a subscription request from a recipient to a sender, the subscription request including user information, wherein the subscription request is received as part of a web browser interaction before sending electronic mail between the sender and the recipient and wherein the subscription request is initiated by the recipient;

generating a petition by the sender based on the user information, the petition comprising a request for the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user, wherein inside the petition the sender specifies a set of methods that the sender will use to identify itself in a future time when the sender sends the electronic mail to the recipient;

transmitting a token containing the petition from the sender to the recipient as a result of the subscription request and storing said token at a computing device where the recipient resides, wherein the petition is transmitted during said web browser interaction before sending electronic mail between the sender and the recipient;

receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;

checking for the token containing the petition in the computing device where said recipient resides;

processing said token containing the petition if the token is found on the computing device where the recipient resides and modifying the mail filters associated with the user by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition; and

transmitting an electronic mail message from the sender to the recipient, wherein the set of methods specified by the sender in the petition are employed by the recipient to verify the sender's identity that transmitted the electronic mail message. and allowing the recipient to receive the electronic mail message from the sender as specified in the petition.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the token is a cookie.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify that an email message is from a given sender.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the identification method utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the identification method utilizes a digital signature.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying mail filters associated with a user of a mail system, the method comprising:

receiving a subscription request from a recipient to a sender, the subscription request including user information, wherein the subscription request is received as part of a web browser interaction before sending any electronic mail between the sender and the recipient and wherein the subscription request is initiated by the recipient; generating a petition by the sender based on the user information, the petition comprising a request for the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user, wherein inside the petition the sender specifies a set of methods that the sender will use to identify itself in a future time when the sender sends the electronic mail to the recipient;

transmitting from the sender to a recipient a token storing a reference to a location of the petition as a result of the subscription request and storing the token at a computing device where the recipient resides, wherein the petition is transmitted as part of said web browser interaction before sending any electronic mail;
receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;
searching in the computing device where the recipient resides for the token containing the reference to a location of the petition;
retrieving the petition from said location if the token is found on the computing device where the recipient resides and processing said petition by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition; and
transmitting an electronic mail message from the sender to the recipient, wherein the set of methods specified by the sender in the petition are employed by the recipient to verify the sender's identity that transmitted the electronic mail message. ~~and allowing the recipient to receive the electronic mail message from the sender as specified in the petition.~~

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving a request for the petition from a party maintaining the list of approved mail senders; and

transmitting the petition in response to the request for the petition.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

including authentication credentials in the token; and

receiving authentication credentials with the request for the petition.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the token is a cookie.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify that an email message is from a given sender.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the identification method utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the identification method utilizes a digital signature.

14. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to modify mail filters, the instructions comprising:

receiving a subscription request from a recipient to a sender, the subscription request including user information, wherein the subscription request is received as part of a web browser interaction before sending any electronic mail between the sender and the recipient and wherein the subscription request is initiated by the recipient; generating a petition by the sender based on the user information, the petition comprising a request for the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user, wherein inside the petition the sender specifies a set of methods that the sender will use to identify itself in a future time when the sender sends the electronic mail to the recipient;

transmitting a token containing the petition from the sender to a the recipient as a result of the subscription request and storing said token at a computing device where the recipient resides, wherein the petition is transmitted as part of said web browser interaction before sending any electronic mail;

receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;

checking for the token containing the petition in the computing device where said recipient resides;

processing said token containing the petition if the token is found ~~in~~ on the computing device where the recipient resides and modifying the mail filters associated with

the user by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition; and

transmitting an electronic mail message from the sender to the recipient, wherein the set of methods specified by the sender in the petition are employed by the recipient to verify the sender's identity that transmitted the electronic mail message. ~~and allowing the recipient to receive the electronic mail message from the sender as specified in the petition.~~

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the token is a cookie.

17. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify that an email message is from a given sender.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the identification method utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

19. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the identification method utilizes a digital signature.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to modify mail filters, the instructions comprising:

receiving a subscription request from a recipient to a sender, the subscription request including user information, wherein the subscription request is received as part of a web browser interaction before sending any electronic mail between the sender and the recipient and wherein the subscription request is initiated by the recipient;

generating a petition by the sender based on the user information, the petition comprising a request for the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user, wherein inside the petition the sender specifies a set of methods that the sender will use to identify itself in a future time when the sender sends the electronic mail to the recipient;

transmitting from the sender to a recipient a token storing a reference to a location of the petition as a result of the subscription request and storing the token at a computing device where the recipient resides, wherein the petition is transmitted as part of said web browser interaction before sending any electronic mail;

receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;

searching in the computing device where the recipient resides for the token containing the reference to a location of the petition;

retrieving the petition from said location if the token is found on the computing device where the recipient resides and processing said petition by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition; and

transmitting an electronic mail message from the sender to the recipient, wherein the set of methods specified by the sender in the petition are employed by the recipient to verify the sender's identity that transmitted the electronic mail message. ~~and allowing the recipient to receive the electronic mail message from the sender as specified in the petition.~~

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the instructions further comprise:

receiving a request for the petition from a party maintaining the list of approved mail senders; and

transmitting the petition in response to the request for the petition.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the instructions further comprise:

including authentication credentials in the token; and

receiving authentication credentials with the request for the petition.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the token is a cookie.

25. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify that an email message is from a given sender.

26. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the identification method utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

27. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the identification method utilizes a digital signature.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

29 – 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A system for modifying mail filters, the system comprising:
a server configured to:

receive a subscription request from a recipient to a sender, the subscription request including user information, wherein the subscription request is received as part of a web browser interaction before sending any electronic mail between the sender and the recipient and wherein the subscription request is initiated by the recipient; and

transmit a token containing a petition from the sender to a computing device where the recipient resides as a result of the subscription request, the petition comprising a request for the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user wherein the token containing the petition is stored at the computing device where the recipient resides and wherein the petition is transmitted as part of said web

browser interaction before sending any electronic mail, wherein inside the petition the sender specifies a set of methods that the sender will use to identify itself in a future time when the sender sends the electronic mail to the recipient;

a petition generator configured to generate the petition from the user information; and
a petition processor configured to process the petition contained in the token if the token is found on the computing device where the recipient resides by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition
wherein, at the time of receiving an electronic mail message from the sender to the recipient, the set of methods specified by the sender in the petition are employed by the recipient to verify the sender's identity that transmitted the electronic mail message.

46. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the token contains the petition.

47. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the token contains a reference to a location of the petition.

48. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the petition includes an identification method.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the identification method utilizes a sender mail address.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the identification method utilizes a digital signature.

51 – 59 (Canceled).

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
requesting a confirmation of the success of the petition by the sender; and

transmitting a confirmation of the petition from the recipient to the sender indicating success or denial of the petition.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the sender assumes that the petition was denied by the recipient if confirmation was requested by the sender but never received from the recipient.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the token containing the petition is transmitted from the sender to the recipient via hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a petition rules list that specify special handling of the petition based on the data contained in the petition such that the petition rule list identifies recipients whose petition processors are located on the systems of a remote mail provider.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
requesting a confirmation of the success of the petition by the sender; and
transmitting a confirmation of the petition from the recipient to the sender indicating success or denial of the petition.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the sender assumes that the petition was denied by the recipient if confirmation was requested by the sender but never received from the recipient.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the token containing the reference to the location of the petition is transmitted from the sender to the recipient via hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

maintaining a petition rules list that specify special handling of the petition based on the data contained in the petition such that the petition rule list identifies recipients whose petition processors are located on the systems of a remote mail provider.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the petition is transmitted to the recipient's web browser and wherein the recipient's web browser provides it to a petition processor.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the petition processor is configured as a web browser plug-in.

70. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the petition, once processed by the recipient, causes the electronic mail message generated by an automated mail program of the sender to bypass the recipient's email filters.